

FIELD EPIDEMIOLOGY TRAINING PROGRAM

Disease Detectives in Action

BY THE NUMBERS

70 

FETPs have been established in 70 countries

80% 

Nearly 80% of graduates continue to serve in public health programs in their home countries

3,100 

Over 3,100 FETP graduates play a key role in disease surveillance and response

“Our collaboration with CDC and FETP has been an indispensable tool in tracing and stopping disease outbreaks.”

James Swan, U.S. Ambassador to Democratic Republic of the Congo



An FETP resident investigates a suspected foodborne illness outbreak among 35 monks at a Buddhist temple in Cambodia, 2014.

BUILDING A GLOBAL HEALTH WORKFORCE

A new approach. In 1980, CDC established the first Field Epidemiology Training Program (FETP) to train field epidemiologists in developing countries. Graduates of these programs have the skills to collect, analyze, and interpret disease information, using evidence to take action and save lives.

Learning by doing. FETP residents spend 20-25 percent of their time in the classroom and 75-80 percent in the field. By training disease detectives in their own countries, FETP is helping to meet the global health security goal of establishing a trained workforce, including at least one trained field epidemiologist per 200,000 people worldwide.

Meeting country needs. FETPs are modeled on CDC’s successful Epidemic Intelligence Service (EIS) program, but are owned by individual countries and ministries of health. They are tailored to meet the needs of each country, recognizing differences in cultures, priorities, partners, capacities, and public health systems.

BOOTS ON THE GROUND

FETP residents and graduates are our “boots on the ground” in the ongoing battle against infectious diseases, environmental hazards, and chronic diseases. FETP graduates have responded to health threats like:

- Ebola virus disease in West Africa
- MERS-CoV transmission in the Middle East, South Korea, and the Philippines
- Polio in Pakistan and Nigeria
- Nipah virus in Bangladesh
- Acute encephalitis in India
- Earthquake recovery in Haiti



Centers for Disease Control and Prevention
Center for Global Health